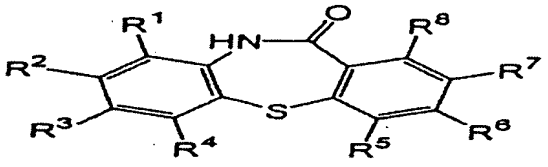
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** claims 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **AMEND** claims 1 as shown below.

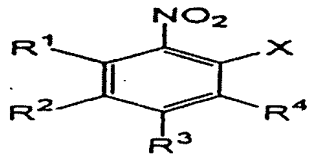
1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a dibenzothiazepine compound of the following formula (5):



(5)

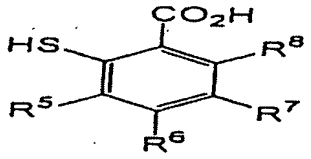
in which each of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an alkylcarbonyl group, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, or an arylcarbonyl group, each group being optionally substituted, which comprises the steps of:

reacting a nitrobenzene compound of the following formula (1):



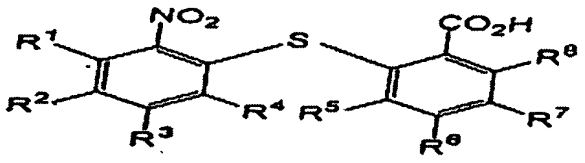
(1)

in which each of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 has the meaning as described above, and X represents a halogen atom, with a thiosalicylic acid compound of the following formula (2):



(2)

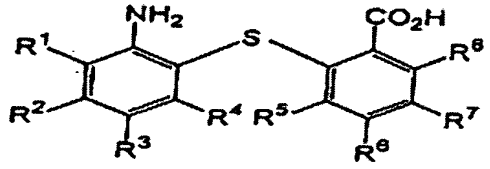
in which each of R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 has the meaning as described above, wherein the step of reacting the nitrobenzene compound of formula (1) with the thiosalicylic acid compound of formula (2) is conducted in a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, amide solvents, aliphatic alcohols, ketones, and nitriles, to obtain a 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide compound of the following formula (3):



(3)

in which each of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 has the meaning as described above;

reducing the obtained 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide compound, in the presence of a compound selected from the group consisting of Raney-nickel, a ferrous salt, palladium/carbon, palladium/barium sulfate, a palladium compound and a platinum compound, to obtain a 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide compound of the following formula (4):



(4)

in which each of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 has the meaning as described above; and

subjecting the obtained 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide compound to dehydration-condensation reaction.

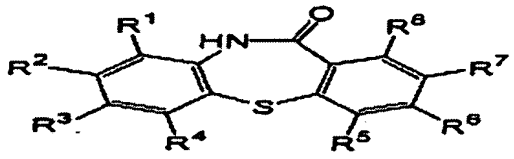
2. (Previously presented) The process for the preparation of the dibenzothiazepine compound as defined in claim 1, wherein the reaction between the nitrobenzene compound of the formula (1) and the thiosalicylic acid compound of the formula (2) is performed in an organic solvent in the presence of a base.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Presently presented) The process for the preparation of the dibenzothiazepine compound as defined in claim 1, wherein the dehydration condensation reaction of the 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide compound of the formula (4) is performed in an organic solvent.

5. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a dibenzothiazepine of the

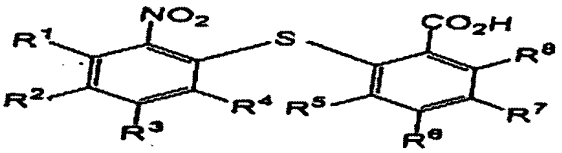
following formula (5):



(5)

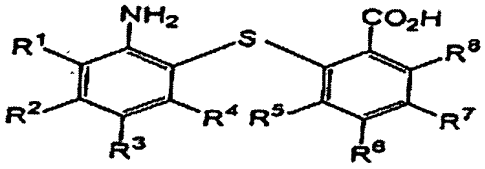
in which each of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy , an alkylcarbonyl, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, or an arylcarbonyl group, each group being optionally substituted, which comprises the steps of:

reducing a 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide compound of the following formula (3):



(3)

in which each of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 has the meaning as described above, in the presence of a compound selected from the group consisting of Raney-nickel, a ferrous salt, palladium/carbon, palladium/barium sulfate, a palladium compound and a platinum compound, to obtain a 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide compound of the following formula (4):



(4)

in which each of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 has the meaning as described above; and

subjecting the obtained 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenyl sulfide compound to dehydration-condensation reaction.

6. (Canceled)

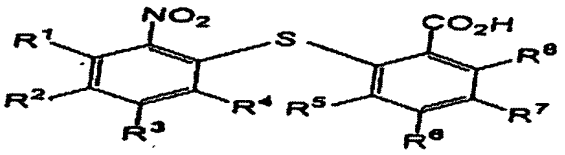
7. (Presently presented) The process for the preparation of the dibenzothiazepine compound as defined in claim 5, wherein the dehydration-condensation reaction of the 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide compound of the formula (4) is performed in an organic

solvent.

8. (Canceled)

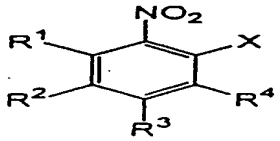
9. (Cancelled)

10. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenyl-sulfide derivative of the following formula (3):



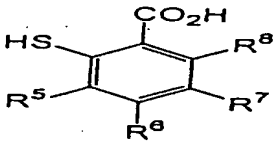
(3)

in which each of , R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 independently represents a hydrogen atoms an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an alkylcarbonyl group, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, or an arylcarbonyl group. each group being optionally substituted, which comprises the step of reacting a nitrobenzene derivative of the following formula (1):



(1)

in which each of R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 has the same meaning as above, and X represents a halogen atom, with a thiosalicylic acid derivative of the flowing formula (2):



(2)

in which each of R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, and R^8 has the same meaning as above.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the reaction step is conducted in a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, amide solvents, aliphatic alcohols, ketones, and nitriles.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn) A process for 11 [4-(2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl)]-1-piperazinyldibenzothiazepine which comprises the steps of:

reacting 2-chloronitrobenzene with thiosalicylic acid to obtain 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide;

reducing the obtained 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide to obtain 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide;

subjecting the obtained 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide to dehydration-condensation reaction to obtain dibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepin-11-one;

reacting the obtained dibenzo [b,f][1,4]thiazepin-11-one with phosphorus oxychloride to obtain 11-chlorodibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepine;

reacting the obtained 11-chlorodibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepine with piperazine to obtain 11-piperazinyl-dibenzothiazepine derivative; and

reacting the obtained 11-piperazinyl-dibenzothiazepine derivative with 2-chloroethoxyethanol.

15. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 14, wherein the step of reacting a 2-chloronitrobenzene with thiosalicylic acid is conducted in a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, amide solvents, aliphatic alcohols, ketones, and nitriles.

16. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 14 or 15, wherein the step of reducing the obtained 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide is conducted in the presence of a Raney-nickel, palladium, a palladium compound, platinum, or a platinum compound.

17. (Withdrawn) The process of any one of claims 14-16, wherein the step of subjecting the obtained 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide to dehydration-condensation reaction is conducted in a hydrophobic solvent and by azeotropic distillation.

18. (Withdrawn) The process for 11-[4-(2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl)]-1-piperazinyldibenzothiazepine which comprises the steps of:

reducing 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide to obtain 2-amino-2'-carboxy-

diphenylsulfide;

subjecting the obtained 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide to dehydration-condensation reaction to obtain dibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepin-11-one;

reacting the obtained dibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepin-11-one with phosphorus-oxychloride to obtain 11-chlorodibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepine;

reacting the obtained 11-chlorodibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepine with piperazine to obtain 11-piperazinyl-dibenzothiazepine derivative; and

reacting the obtained 11-piperazinyl-dibenzothiazepine derivative with 2-chloroethoxyethanol.

19. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 18, wherein the step of reducing the obtained 2-nitro-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide is conducted in the presence of a Raney-nickel, palladium, a palladium compound, platinum, or a platinum compound.

20. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 18 or 19, wherein the step of subjecting the obtained 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide to dehydration-condensation reaction is conducted in a hydrophobic solvent and by azeotropic distillation.

21. (Withdrawn) A process for 11-[4-(2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl)]-1 piperazinyldibenzothiazepine which comprises the steps of:

subjecting 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide to dehydration-condensation reaction to obtain dibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepin-11-one;

reacting the obtained dibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepin-11-one with phosphorus oxychloride to obtain 11 –chlorodibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepine;

reacting the obtained 11-chlorodibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepine with piperazine to obtain 11-piperazinyl-dibenzothiazepine derivative; and

reacting the obtained 11-piperazinyl-dibenzothiazepine derivative with 2-chloroethoxyethanol.

22. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 21, wherein the step of subjecting the obtained 2-amino-2'-carboxy-diphenylsulfide to dehydration-condensation reaction is conducted in a hydrophobic solvent and by azeotropic distillation.